

**METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) Climate Action Committee held at 9:02 am on Thursday, June 13, 2024 in the 28<sup>th</sup> Floor Committee Room, 4515 Central Boulevard, Burnaby, British Columbia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair, Director Lisa Dominato, Vancouver  
Vice Chair, Director Patrick Johnstone, New Westminster  
Councillor Tim Baillie, Langley Township  
Director Ken Berry, Lions Bay\* (arrived at 9:10 am)  
Director Mike Bose, Surrey  
Director Adriane Carr, Vancouver  
Councillor Alison Gu, Burnaby  
Director Meghan Lahti, Port Moody\* (departed 10:50 am)  
Director Jen McCutcheon, Electoral Area A  
Director Bill McNulty, Richmond  
Councillor Catherine Pope, North Vancouver District  
Director Jamie Ross, Belcarra  
Director Dan Ruimy, Maple Ridge  
Councillor Rosemary Wallace, Langley City

\*denotes electronic meeting participation as authorized by the *Procedure Bylaw*

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Councillor Dennis Marsden, Coquitlam

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning  
Conor Reynolds, Director, Air Quality and Climate Action Services  
Catherine Grosson, Legislative Services Coordinator, Board and Information Services  
Geoff Doerksen, Air Quality Planner, Air Quality and Climate Action Services  
Ken Reid, Superintendent, Environmental Sampling and Monitoring, Air Quality and Climate Action Services  
Julie Saxton, Program Manager Enforcement and Regulation Air Quality, Environmental Regulation and Enforcement  
Jay Soper, Communications Specialist, External Relations  
Lillian Zarembo, Program Manager, Liquid Waste Services

**A. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

**1. June 13, 2024 Meeting Agenda**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Climate Action Committee adopt the agenda for its meeting scheduled for June 13, 2024 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**B. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**1. May 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Climate Action Committee adopt the minutes of its meeting held May 9, 2024 as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**C. DELEGATIONS**

No items presented.

**D. INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

No items presented.

**E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**1. Air Quality Advisory Program and Preparedness for 2024**

Report dated June 4, 2024 from Amy Thai, Senior Policy Analyst, Air Quality and Climate Action Services, and Geoff Doerksen, Air Quality Planner, Air Quality and Climate Action Services, providing information about Metro Vancouver's air quality advisory program, wildfire smoke preparedness, and advisory planning activities for the 2024 advisory season.

9:10 am Director Berry arrived at the meeting.

Geoff Doerksen and Ken Reid, Superintendent, Environmental Sampling and Monitoring, Air Quality and Climate Action Services, provided members with a presentation titled "Air Quality Advisory Program and Preparedness for 2024" that outlined the history of Metro Vancouver's role in air quality monitoring, the impact of air contaminants on human health, and changes that have been made to the air quality advisory program for 2024.

In response to members' questions, Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning, Conor Reynolds, Director, Air Quality and Climate Action Services, Geoff Doerksen, and Ken Reid provided members with the following information:

- access to air conditioning has health benefits during the hot summer months when there is increased ground-level ozone;
- people who do not have access to heat pumps and air filtration in their homes should seek cool indoor spaces, such as malls, during hot weather;
- tree canopy may have an impact on air quality on a local level, but in order to improve air quality on a regional scale it is critical to reduce air contaminant emissions; and
- local health authorities provide Metro Vancouver with health-related advice and information to convey to the public.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated June 4, 2024, titled "Air Quality Advisory Program and Preparedness for 2024".

**CARRIED**

**2. Residential Indoor Wood Burning Public Education Campaign**

Report dated May 31, 2024 from Julie Saxton, Program Manager Enforcement and Regulation Air Quality, Environmental Regulation and Enforcement, and Jay Soper, Communications Specialist, External Relations, providing information to the Climate Action Committee about a fall 2024 campaign to increase awareness of the requirements of *Metro Vancouver Regional District Residential Indoor Wood Burning Emission Regulation Bylaw No. 1303, 2020* and provide public education about the health impacts of emissions of residential indoor wood burning.

Julie Saxton and Jay Soper provided members with a verbal update and informed members about the upcoming public education campaign.

In response to members' questions Conor Reynolds, Julie Saxton, and Jay Soper provided members with the following information:

- there is currently low awareness about the importance of this regulation, including impacts on health;
- there are provisions in the bylaw to address the needs of people who live in homes in which there are no other sources of heating; and
- the Community Wood Smoke Reduction Program provides rebates for residents switching to cleaner alternatives such as heat pumps, certified wood burning appliances, and electric fireplace inserts.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Climate Action Committee receive for information the report titled Residential Indoor Wood Burning Public Education Campaign, dated May 31, 2024.

**CARRIED**

**3. Research Trial of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement**

Report dated May 14, 2024 from Lillian Zaremba, Program Manager, Liquid Waste Services, informing the Climate Action Committee and MVRD Board of a planned research trial of ocean alkalinity enhancement using the Lions Gate Wastewater Treatment Plant (LGWWTP) outfall.

Lillian Zaremba provided members with a verbal update about the research trial. In response to members' questions, Lillian Zaremba provided members with the following information:

- impacts on aquatic life, water quality and acidity will be measured;
- the LGWWTP outfall was selected due to its depth and water circulation pattern; and
- researchers will ensure that the trial results in a net carbon reduction.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated May 14, 2024, titled "Research Trial of Ocean Alkalinity Enhancement".

**CARRIED**

Director Berry was absent for the vote.

The Climate Action Committee amended the agenda for its meeting of June 13, 2024 by adding a verbal update on the MVRD Board's consideration of the report dated April 16, 2024, titled "Best Practices in Energy and Emissions Benchmarking and Reporting for Existing Large Buildings" at its meeting of May 31, 2024, as Item G1.

The Climate Action Committee varied the order of the agenda for its meeting of June 13, 2024, by considering Item G1 before Item E5.

**G. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Verbal update on the MVRD Board's consideration of the report dated April 16, 2024, titled "Best Practices in Energy and Emissions Benchmarking and Reporting for Existing Large Buildings"**

Chair Dominato provided the committee with a verbal update on the MVRD Board's discussion of the report dated April 16, 2024, titled "Best Practices in Energy and Emissions Benchmarking and Reporting for Existing Large Buildings" that was brought before the Board for consideration at its May 31, 2024 meeting. Chair Dominato informed members that the MVRD Board voted to defer the report to the September 2024 Board meeting and that Board members discussed the possibility of having a Board dialogue in the future to review and discuss action items in the Board Strategic Plan stemming from Metro Vancouver's Climate 2050 Strategy; no date has yet been set for this dialogue.

**E. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CONTINUED)**

**5. Manager's Report**

Report dated May 30, 2024 from Conor Reynolds, Director, Air Quality and Climate Action Services providing an update on the committee's work plan and projects in development aimed at reducing air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

10:49 am Director Lahti departed the meeting.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Climate Action Committee receive for information the report dated May 30, 2024, titled "Manager's Report".

**CARRIED**

**H. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Metro 2050 Climate Policy Enhancement Study – Recommendations**

**I. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING**

No items presented.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**It was MOVED and SECONDED**

That the Climate Action Committee adjourn its meeting of June 13, 2024.

**CARRIED**

(Time: 10:57 am)

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Catherine Grosson,  
Legislative Services Coordinator

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Lisa Dominato,  
Chair

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